United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea CLCS/72

Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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New York, 1 August-9 September 2011

Progress of work in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Statement by the Chairperson

Summary

The present statement provides information on the work done by the Commission and its subcommissions prior to and during the twenty-eighth session, in particular in the context of the examination of the submissions made by Japan; by France in respect of the areas of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands; by Uruguay; and by the Philippines in respect of the Benham Rise region. It also provides information on presentations made to the Commission by Bangladesh and Madagascar and on the establishment of a new subcommission to examine the submission made by the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau. It further highlights the deliberations of the Commission on the outcome of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and on a number of other matters, including the revised submission by Barbados.

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1. Pursuant to the decisions taken at its twenty-fifth,[1] twenty-sixth[2] and twenty seventh[3] sessions and to General Assembly resolution 65/37A,[4] the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf held its twenty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 1 August to 9 September 2011. The plenary part of the session was held from 15 to 26 August. The periods from 1 to 12 August and from 29 August to 9 September were used for the technical examination of submissions at the Geographic Information System (GIS) laboratories and other technical facilities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs.

2. The following members of the Commission attended the session: Osvaldo Pedro Astiz, Lawrence Folajimi Awosika, Harald Brekke, Galo Carrera Hurtado, Francis L. Charles, Peter F. Croker, Abu Bakar Jaafar, Emmanuel Kalngui, Yuri Borisovitch Kazmin, Wenzheng Lu, Isaac Owusu Oduro, Yong-Ahn Park, Sivaramakrishnan Rajan, Michael Anselme Marc Rosette, Philip Alexander Symonds and Tetsuro Urabe.

3. Alexandre Tagore Medeiros de Albuquerque, Indurlall Fagoonee, Mihai Silviu German, George Jaoshvili and Fernando Manuel Maia Pimentel informed the Secretariat that they were unable to attend the session for reasons beyond their control.

4. The Commission had before it the following documents and communications:

(a) Provisional agenda (CLCS/L.31);

(b) Statement by the Chairperson of the Commission on the progress of work in the Commission at its twenty-seventh session (CLCS/70);

(c) Submissions made by coastal States pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and addressed to the Commission through the Secretary-General of the United Nations;[5]

(d) General Assembly resolution 65/37A;

(e) Communications received from Bangladesh (25 April and 27 June 2011); Barbados (19 July 2011); China (3 August 2011); Gabon (28 July 2011); India (20 June 2011); Japan (9 and 15 August 2011); Madagascar (23 June 2011); Mauritius (28 April 2011); Mexico (2 and 12 August 2011); Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (15 June 2011); Myanmar (31 March 2011); Republic of Korea (11 August 2011); Seychelles (26 May 2011); United Republic of Tanzania (28 April 2011); and Viet Nam (3 May 2011).

[1] CLCS/66, para. 98.
[2] CLCS/68, para. 56.
[3] CLCS/70, para. 54.
[4] Para. 67.
[5] For a full list of the submissions made to the Commission, see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/commission_submissions.htm.

Item 1
Opening of the twenty-eighth session by the Chairperson of the Commission

5. The Acting Chairperson of the twenty-seventh session, Mr. Brekke, opened the plenary part of the session. He informed the Commission that the Chairperson, Mr. Albuquerque, had advised the Secretariat that he would be unable to attend the session. Recalling rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the Commission (CLCS/40/Rev.1), Mr. Brekke invited the Commission to designate an Acting Chairperson for the current session. After consultations, the Commission designated Mr. Brekke for the morning meeting of 15 August and Mr. Park for the remainder of the session.

Solemn declaration

6. The Chairperson recalled that a Meeting of States Parties held on 11 August 2011[6] had elected Tetsuro Urabe (Japan) as a member of the Commission for the remainder of the term of Kensaku Tamaki, who had passed away on 5 April 2011.[7] The Acting Chairperson, on behalf of the Commission, congratulated Mr. Urabe on his election.

7. Mr. Urabe made the solemn declaration prescribed by rule 10 of the rules of procedure and delivered a brief statement.

Statement by the Director of the Division

8. The Director of the Division made a brief statement on behalf of the Legal Counsel, emphasizing the importance of the Commission. He assured the Commission of the readiness of the Secretariat to provide it with the services it required.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda

9. The Commission considered the provisional agenda (CLCS/L.31). The Commission decided that the agenda should include an additional item entitled "Mechanism to seek advice on matters of interpretation of certain provisions of the Convention other than those contained in its article 76, and annex II, as well as in the Statement of Understanding adopted on 29 August 1980 by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea". The provisional agenda was adopted, as amended (CLCS/71).

[6] See SPLOS/237.

[7] See CLCS/70, para. 74.

Item 3
Organization of work

10. The Chairperson outlined the programme of work and the schedule for deliberations, which the Commission approved with amendments.[8]

Item 4
Submission made by Japan[9]

Report of the Chairperson of the Subcommission regarding the progress of work during the resumed twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions

11. The Chairperson of the Subcommission, Mr. Brekke, informed the Commission that the Subcommission had continued its examination of the submission during the intersessional period, at the resumed twenty-seventh session, from 6 to 17 June 2011, and at the twenty-eighth session, from 1 to 12 August 2011. During the resumed twenty-seventh session, the Subcommission had considered the materials transmitted between sessions by the delegation of Japan at the request of the Subcommission and held two meetings with the delegation. At those meetings, the Subcommission had received responses from the delegation and made a presentation of its views and general conclusions arising from the examination of the submission, pursuant to paragraph 10.3 of annex III to the rules of procedure. At the twenty-eighth session, the Subcommission had held another meeting with the delegation. In accordance with the established practice, the Subcommission had shared with the delegation an outline of the draft recommendations. The Subcommission had adopted its draft recommendations on 12 August 2011 and transmitted them to the Commission through its Chairperson on the same day.

Consideration of draft recommendations

12. On 15 and 16 August 2011, the Subcommission introduced the draft recommendations to the Commission.

13. On 16 August 2011, at the request of Japan, a meeting was held between its delegation and the Commission, pursuant to paragraph 15 (1 bis) of annex III to the rules of procedure. The delegation of Japan was headed by Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, and included Yasumasa Nagamine, Director-General of the International Legal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazuchika Hamuro, Ambassador for the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf at the Permanent Mission of Japan, and a number of advisers.

14. In his presentation, Ambassador Nishida appealed to the Commission to consider and adopt the draft recommendations prepared by the Subcommission on

[8] In response to an invitation by the Chairperson to present their submissions at the twenty-eighth session, France (in respect of La Réunion Island and Saint-Paul and Amsterdam Islands), Iceland, Pakistan and Sri Lanka had indicated a preference to make their presentations at a later session. The deferrals of the presentations to a later time were communicated to the Chairperson on the understanding that they would not affect the position of the submissions in the queue.

[9] Submission made on 12 November 2008; see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_jpn.htm.

the entire submission, including the area of Oki-no-Tori Shima. He recalled that, in the context of the submission made by Japan, China and the Republic of Korea had raised an issue relating to the interpretation of article 121 of the Convention. He expressed the view that those two States did not claim sovereignty over Oki-no-Tori Shima. Ambassador Nishida also recalled that the United States of America and Palau had advised the Commission of not having objections to the consideration of the submission by the Commission. In the absence of land or maritime disputes in the concerned area, Japan urged the Commission to consider the submission and make recommendations thereon. Ambassador Nishida also noted that the mandate of the Commission was restricted to article 76 and annex II to the Convention, and did not include the interpretation of article 121, as had been recognized by the Commission itself.[10] In that connection, he also recalled that the Commission had stated that "the consideration of submissions by the Commission concerned issues related only to article 76 and annex II to the Convention and was without prejudice to the interpretation or application of other parts of the Convention".[11]

15. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. With the consent of the Commission, the Acting Chairperson invited Mr. Kazmin, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, to preside over the rest of the deliberations concerning agenda item 4. Following a detailed discussion of the draft recommendations and taking into account the presentations made by the delegation and by the Subcommission, the Commission decided, in accordance with rule 53, paragraph 1, to defer further consideration of the draft recommendations to the twenty-ninth session in order to provide its members with sufficient time to consider the submission and the draft recommendations.

Item 5
Consideration of the submission made by France in respect of the areas of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands[12]

Report of the Chairperson of the Subcommission

16. The Chairperson of the Subcommission, Mr. Jaafar, informed the Commission that the Subcommission had continued its work at the twenty-eighth session, from 29 August to 2 September 2011. During that period it had held three meetings with the French delegation. The delegation had presented its answers to the second set of questions posed by the Subcommission. The Subcommission had presented to the delegation its preliminary views and general conclusions on the remaining parts of the submission as well as additional comments on the answers to the second set of questions.[13] The Subcommission would continue its consideration of the submission from 28 November to 9 December 2011 and from 19 March to 5 April 2012.

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[10] The delegation referred to CLCS/64, paras. 18 and 25.

[11] See CLCS/64, para. 25.

[12] Submission made on 5 February 2009; see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_fra1.htm.

[13] See CLCS/70, para. 22.

Item 6
Consideration of the submission made by Uruguay[14]

Report of the Chairperson of the Subcommission

17. The Chairperson of the Subcommission, Mr. Charles, informed the Commission that the Subcommission had continued its work at the twenty-eighth session, from 8 to 12 August and from 6 to 9 September. During that period it had held three meetings with the delegation of Uruguay. The latter had presented its answers to the first set of questions posed by the Subcommission at the twenty-seventh session. The Subcommission had examined the material received between sessions and made a presentation of its views on certain aspects of the submission. The Subcommission had also posed a fourth question to the delegation and examined new data and information provided by the delegation in preliminary response to that question. The Subcommission would continue its work from 5 to 9 December 2011 and from 19 March to 5 April 2012 and, depending on the progress in the consideration of the submission, from 23 to 27 April 2012.

Item 7
Consideration of the submission made by the Philippines in respect of the Benham Rise region[15]

Report of the Chairperson of the Subcommission

18. The Chairperson of the Subcommission, Mr. Awosika, informed the Commission that the Subcommission had continued its work at the twenty-eighth session, from 29 August to 9 September 2011. During that period it had held two meetings with the delegation of the Philippines. The latter had presented additional information in response to preliminary questions and further observations from the Subcommission. The Subcommission would continue its consideration of the submission from 5 to 9 December 2011 and from 26 March to 5 April 2012.

Item 8
Consideration of other submissions made pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention

(a) Submission made by Bangladesh[16]

19. The presentation of the submission to the Commission was made on 24 August 2011 by Dipu Moni, Minister for Foreign Affairs and head of delegation, Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, and Khurshed Alam, Rear Admiral, Additional Secretary for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

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[14] Submission made on 7 April 2009; see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_ury_21_2009.htm.

[15] Submission made on 8 April 2009; see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_phl_22_2009.htm.

[16] Submission made on 25 February 2011; see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_bgd_55_2011.htm.

20. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the submission, Ambassador Momen informed the Commission that one of its members, Mr. Brekke, had assisted Bangladesh by providing scientific and technical advice.

21. Ambassador Momen also stated that in the area of continental shelf covered in the submission there were disputes with India and Myanmar in the context of rule 46 and annex I to the rules of procedure. Those disputes concerned the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and the two neighbouring States and were the subject of legal proceedings. With regard to the communications concerning the submission which had been addressed to the Secretary-General, Ambassador Momen observed that the note verbale from Myanmar dated 31 March 2011 and the note verbale from India dated 20 June 2011 did not object to the consideration by the Commission of the submission made by Bangladesh. He also noted that neither of the notes refuted the assurances provided by Bangladesh that the consideration of the submission by the Commission, and the submission itself, would not prejudice resolution of the disputes.

22. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the submission and taking into account the notes referred to above and the presentation made by the delegation, the Commission decided to defer further consideration of the submission and the notes until such time as the submission was next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which it was received. The Commission adopted the decision in order to take into account any further developments that might occur in the intervening period, during which the States concerned might wish to take advantage of the avenues available to them, including provisional arrangements of a practical nature as outlined in annex I to the rules of procedure.

(b) Submission made by Madagascar[17]

23. The presentation of the submission to the Commission was made on 24 August 2011 by Albert Camille Vital, Prime Minister and head of delegation, Germain Michel Ranjoanina, Legal Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Clodette Raharimananirina, Senior Geophysicist and leader of the Malagasy Technical Core Group. The delegation also included Yvette Sylla, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the National Committee for the Delineation of the Continental Shelf, Mamy Ratovomalala, Minister for Mines and Hydrocarbons, Zina Andrianarivelo-Rafazy, Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations, and a number of advisers.

24. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the submission, Ms. Raharimananirina informed the Commission that one of its members, Mr. Brekke, had assisted Madagascar by providing scientific and technical advice.

25. Mr. Ranjoanina stated that the area of continental shelf covered by the submission was not subject to any disputes. He observed, however, that Madagascar was involved in negotiations with Mozambique on matters of bilateral delimitation of maritime spaces. He expressed the view that such issues would have to be considered by reference to rule 46 and annex I to the rules of procedure. Madagascar had agreed with Mozambique that their respective submissions could be considered

[17] Submission made on 29 April 2011; see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_mgd_56_2011.htm.

by the Commission on the understanding that that would be without prejudice to any future delimitation. In that connection, Mr. Ranjoanina reiterated the view that the submission and its consideration by the Commission were without prejudice to the outstanding delimitations. Finally, he noted that no notes verbales had been received with regard to the submission of Madagascar.

26. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the submission, the Commission decided that, as provided for in article 5 of annex II to the Convention and rule 42 of the rules of procedure, the submission would be addressed by a subcommission to be established in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 4 ter, of the rules of procedure, at a future session. The Commission decided that it would establish a subcommission at the time when the submission was next in line for consideration, as queued in the order in which it was received.

Item 9
Report on the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties

27. The Acting Chairperson of the twenty-seventh session, Mr. Brekke, informed the members of the Commission of the outcome of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, which he had attended in that capacity. In particular, he drew attention to the decision of the Meeting contained in document SPLOS/229.

28. The Director of the Division brought to the attention of the Commission paragraph 2 of the decision, by which the Meeting recommended that any requests for appropriate resources required by the Secretariat to facilitate an increased number of working weeks by the Commission be presented to the General Assembly during its sixty-sixth session.

29. The Commission discussed the decision and noted with appreciation paragraph 5, by which the Meeting encouraged States that were in a position to do so to provide medical coverage to the members of the Commission nominated by them while performing Commission duties in New York.

30. The Commission took note of the decision of the Meeting in its entirety. However, it noted with concern that the measure contained in paragraph 1 of the decision would not be helpful in reducing the considerable workload of the Commission if the issues of financial support for members of the Commission and appropriate resources for the Secretariat were not addressed.

Item 10
Report of the Chairperson of the Committee on Confidentiality

31. The Chairperson, Mr. Croker, reported that the Committee had held no meetings during the twenty-eighth session, since no circumstances had arisen requiring a meeting.

Item 11
Report of the Chairperson of the Editorial Committee

32. The Chairperson, Mr. Jaafar, reported that the Committee had held no meetings during the twenty-eighth session. However, he reiterated that there ought to be an ongoing exercise to standardize the terms used in the documents and work of the Commission.

Item 12
Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advice Committee

33. The Chairperson, Mr. Symonds, reported that the Commission had not received any formal requests for scientific and technical advice and, therefore, the Committee had held no meetings during the twenty-eighth session. He reiterated the willingness of the Committee to assist States and encouraged them to make an official request for such assistance, if needed, through the Secretariat.

34. Referring to the decision taken by the Commission at its twenty-third session,[18] he reiterated that the members of the Commission should provide information as to which coastal States they had assisted by giving scientific and technical advice with respect to the delineation of their continental shelf. Such information would assist the Commission, inter alia, in the establishment of subcommissions in conformity with the procedure provided for in section X of the rules of procedure, in particular in view of the upcoming election and the possible change of membership of the Commission in June 2012. In that connection he underscored the importance of developing a practice whereby all Commission members routinely informed the Committee about the advice they provided to States.

Item 13
Report of the Chairperson of the Training Committee and other training issues

35. The Chairperson of the Committee, Mr. Carrera, reported that the Committee had not held any meetings during the twenty-eighth session.

36. Mr. Carrera informed the Commission that the Government of Angola had invited the Division to conduct a workshop aimed at training Government officials in the legal and scientific aspects of the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf and on the preparation of a submission to the Commission. In addition, the Commission had been requested to support the workshop. More than 60 participants from various ministries, national agencies and academic institutions had attended the workshop, held in Luanda from 16 to 20 May 2011. A team of four facilitators (Mr. Carrera; Karl Hinz, a former member of the Commission; and two staff members of the Division) had attended the workshop and delivered a series of presentations.

[18] See CLCS/62, para. 75.

Item 14
Mechanism to seek advice on matters of interpretation of certain provisions of the Convention other than those contained in its article 76, and annex II, as well as in the Statement of Understanding adopted on 29 August 1980 by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

37. Under this agenda item, the Commission heard a presentation made by one of its members raising, inter alia, a question as to what course of action should be taken by the Commission in cases where there was a dispute among States relating to the interpretation of provisions of the Convention other than those contained in article 76 and annex II as well as in the Statement of Understanding adopted on 29 August 1980 by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which nevertheless could have an impact on the determination of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles presented in the recommendations of the Commission and their implementation by coastal States.

38. A proposal was made to seek advice from the Legal Counsel of the United Nations on the following question:

> "What mechanisms are available to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to seek advice on matters of interpretation of provisions of the Convention other than those contained in article 76 and annex II as well as in the Statement of Understanding adopted on 29 August 1980 by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea?"

39. In the ensuing discussion, a member expressed the view that legal certainty was needed in order for the Commission to properly discharge its functions. Other members were of the view that the Commission, in accordance with its mandate, should focus on matters of a scientific and technical nature and should refrain from looking into, or seeking advice on, legal matters of interpretation of provisions of the Convention other than those contained in article 76 and annex II. At the request of some members of the Commission, the Director provided clarifications on the judicial and advisory functions of the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

40. After extensive deliberations, the Commission decided to defer further consideration of this item to the next session.

Item 15
Other matters

Filling of vacancies

41. Following consultations, the Commission appointed Mr. Urabe to fill the vacancies that had occurred in the Subcommission established for consideration of the submission made by the Philippines in respect of the Benham Rise region and in the Committee on Confidentiality following the demise of Mr. Tamaki.

Establishment of new subcommissions

42. After the completion of the work of the Japan Subcommission, the Commission decided that, in order to ensure expediency and efficiency in the light of the considerable number of submissions, a new subcommission would be established as an exception to the general rule contained in rule 51, paragraph 4 bis, of the rules of procedure.

43. The Commission noted that the submissions made by Myanmar, Yemen, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of Hatton Rockall Area and Ireland in respect of Hatton-Rockall Area were at the head of the queue. Recalling its decisions with regard to those submissions,[19] and noting that there had been no developments to indicate that consent existed on the part of all States concerned allowing their consideration, the Commission decided to further defer the establishment of subcommissions for the consideration of those submissions. It also decided that, since those submissions remained next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which they were received, it would revisit the situation at the time of establishment of its next subcommission.

Submission by the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau

44. The Commission established a subcommission to examine the next submission in the queue, namely, the submission made by the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau.[20]

45. The Commission decided to appoint Messrs. Brekke, Carrera, Jaafar, Kalngui, Oduro, Park and Urabe as members of the Subcommission.

46. The Subcommission elected Mr. Carrera as its Chairperson and Messrs. Brekke and Urabe as Vice-Chairpersons.

Report of the Chairperson of the Subcommission established to examine the submission made by the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau regarding the progress of work during the twenty-eighth session

47. The Subcommission met from 29 August to 2 September 2011, commencing its consideration of the submission. Notably, it verified the format and completeness of the submission and proceeded to undertake a preliminary analysis of the submission, concluding that further time would be required to examine all the data.

48. The Subcommission addressed a number of initial questions to the delegation of the Cook Islands and decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period. The Subcommission decided to resume its consideration of the submission from 23 to 27 April 2012.

Revised submission by Barbados

49. The Commission took note of the revised submission received from Barbados on 25 July 2011. Pursuant to rule 51, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, the consideration of the revised submission would be included in the agenda of the

[19] See, respectively, CLCS/64, para. 40, and CLCS/68, para. 51; CLCS/68, para. 19; and CLCS/64, paras. 46 and 52. See also CLCS/70, para. 42.

[20] On the decision to examine this submission by way of a subcommission, see CLCS/64, para. 66. On the procedure followed to establish subcommissions, see CLCS/42, paras. 19 and 20.

twenty-ninth session. In that connection, the Commission recalled that, at its twenty-sixth session, it had decided that revised submissions would be considered on a priority basis, notwithstanding the queue.[21]

50. Pursuant to rule 42, paragraph 2, the Commission decided that the Subcommission established for consideration of the submission made by Barbados on 8 May 2008, composed of Messrs. Albuquerque, Astiz, Croker, Lu, Oduro, Rajan and Rosette, with Mr. Rajan as its Chairperson and Messrs. Oduro and Croker as Vice-Chairpersons, would consider the revised submission. The Commission further decided that the Subcommission would start the consideration after the expiration of the three-month period from the date of publication by the Secretary-General of the executive summary, in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure.

51. The Chairperson of the Subcommission, Mr. Rajan, informed the Commission that members of the Subcommission would be available to meet between 5 and 9 December, as appropriate.

Future sessions of the Commission

52. The Commission decided that it would resume its twenty-eighth session to allow the Subcommissions to continue their work. The Subcommission established to examine the submission made by France in respect of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands will meet from 28 November to 9 December 2011. The Subcommissions established to examine the revised submission made by Barbados, the submission made by the Philippines in respect of the Benham Rise region and the submission made by Uruguay will meet from 5 to 9 December 2011.

53. The Commission decided that the twenty-ninth session would be held from 19 March to 27 April 2012. The dates of the plenary part of that session, subject to their approval by the General Assembly, will be 9 to 20 April. The Commission also decided that the Subcommission established to examine the submission made by France in respect of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands would meet from 19 March to 5 April; the Subcommission established to examine the submission made by the Philippines in respect of the Benham Rise region would meet from 26 March to 5 April; the Subcommission established to examine the submission made by Uruguay would meet from 19 March to 5 April and, depending on the progress in the consideration of the submission, from 23 to 27 April; and the Subcommission established to examine the submission made by the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau would meet from 23 to 27 April.

54. The Commission decided that the plenary part of the thirtieth session would be held from 30 July to 10 August 2012, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

Summary of recommendations

55. The Chairperson of the Subcommission established for the consideration of the submission made by Brazil, Mr. Carrera, introduced a revised summary of the recommendations, pursuant to the decision taken at the twenty-seventh session.[22] After deliberations, the Commission adopted by consensus the "Summary

[21] See CLCS/68, para. 57.

[22] See CLCS/70, para. 59.

containing excerpts of the recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in regard to the submission made by Brazil on 17 May 2004", to be transmitted to the coastal State as well as to the Secretary-General in order for the latter to give publicity to the summary in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Participation in sessions of the Commission

56. The Commission reiterated that full attendance by the members was necessary to ensure that all existing subcommissions have the quorum required for their deliberations and the technical expertise necessary for the examination of submissions. It noted that some members of the Commission from one region had not been able to attend the session owing to the lack of financial support from their nominating States. In that connection, rule 7, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure was recalled.

57. One regional group made a proposal that at sessions at which the Chairperson was absent, the regional group to which the Chairperson belonged should be represented by an ad interim Vice-Chairperson, in order to ensure balanced participation by all regional groups in all the aspects of the work of the Commission. After deliberations, the proposal was withdrawn.

Trust funds

58. The Director of the Division briefed the Commission on the status of the trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission. Iceland, Ireland, Mexico and the Republic of Korea had made contributions to the trust fund. According to the provisional statement of accounts, as at the end of July 2011, the balance of the Trust Fund was approximately $620,000. Subsequently, Côte d'Ivoire and Japan made contributions to the trust fund.

59. The Director also provided an overview of the status of the trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions, indicating that in 2011 contributions had been received from Australia, Iceland and Ireland. No applications have been submitted to the trust fund since the second half of 2010. According to the provisional statement of accounts, as at the end of July 2011, the balance of the Trust Fund was approximately $1,229,000. Subsequently, Côte d'Ivoire made a contribution to the trust fund.

Acknowledgement to the Secretariat

60. The Commission noted with appreciation the high standard of secretariat services rendered to it by the Division.

61. It also expressed its appreciation to the staff of the Division and other members of the Secretariat for the assistance provided to the Commission during the twenty-eighth session, and noted the high professional standard of interpretation in the official languages of the United Nations and the assistance provided by the conference officers.

62. **Staff members of the Division**. A list of staff members of the Division involved in servicing the twenty-eighth session of the Commission is set out in the annex to the present report.

Annex

Staff members of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea involved in servicing the twenty-eighth session of the Commission

Serguei Tarassenko, Director

Hariharan Pakshi Rajan, Deputy Director; Secretary of the Commission

Vladimír Jareš, Senior Legal Officer; Deputy Secretary of the Commission; Secretary of the Japan Subcommission

Robert Sandev, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Officer; GIS Officer of the Japan Subcommission; Secretary and GIS Officer of the France Subcommission in respect of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands

Luigi Santosuosso, Legal Officer; Secretary of the Uruguay Subcommission

Charlotte Salpin, Legal Officer; Secretary of the Cook Islands Subcommission with respect to Manihiki Plateau

Shawn Stanley, GIS Officer; Secretary and GIS Officer of the Barbados Subcommission; Secretary and GIS Officer of the Philippines Subcommission in respect of the Benham Rise region; GIS Officer of the Cook Islands Subcommission in respect of the Manihiki Plateau

Guillaume Le Sourd, GIS Officer; GIS Officer of the Uruguay Subcommission

Vita Onwuasoanya, Legal Officer; Legal Officer of the France Subcommission in respect of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands; Legal Officer of the Philippines Subcommission in respect of the Benham Rise region

Julio A. Baez, Senior Legal Officer; administration of trust funds

Carlos Ivan Fuentes, Associate Legal Officer; assigned to plenary of the Commission; assistant with regard to administration of trust funds

Josefa Velasco, Staff Assistant; assigned to documentation processing for the session

Cristina Baylon, Staff Assistant; assigned to plenary of the Commission, Japan Subcommission and France Subcommission in respect of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands

Esperanza François, Staff Assistant; assigned to plenary of the Commission, Japan Subcommission, France Subcommission in respect of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands and Uruguay Subcommission

Michèle Doré, Staff Assistant; assigned to Philippines Subcommission in respect of the Benham Rise region

Sirhan Chaudhry, Staff Assistant; assigned to information technology support